

Via Facsimile to: 703-872-9306

16 June 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5 (canceled)

6. (original): A method for selective peening of a coil spring that comprises metal wire and has an inner coil spring diameter, an outer coil spring diameter, a coil spring pitch, and a coil spring length along a coil spring axis, the method comprising

providing a peening mask for selective peening of said coil spring, said peening mask comprising

a cylindrical inner shield having a diameter slightly less than said inner coil spring diameter and a length not less than said coil spring length; and

a coiled outer shield having an inner diameter slightly greater than said outer coil spring diameter and having a pitch substantially equal to said coil spring pitch; and

inserting said cylindrical inner shield within the coil spring to form a first assembly;

inserting said first assembly within said coiled outer shield to form a second assembly;

aligning said cylindrical inner shield and said coiled outer shield with the coil spring; and

peening said second assembly.

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7. (original): A peening mask for selective peening of a coil spring that comprises metal wire and has an inner coil spring diameter, an outer coil spring diameter, a coil spring pitch, and a coil spring length along a coil spring axis, said peening mask comprising a cylindrical inner shield having a diameter slightly less than said inner coil spring diameter and a length not less than said coil spring length; and a coiled outer shield having an inner diameter slightly greater than said outer coil spring diameter and having a pitch substantially equal to said coil spring pitch.